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10/552,068	10/04/2005	Toshihiro Kadowaki	02922.018047.	6106

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EXAMINER	
YANG, QIAN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/552,068	KADOWAKI, TOSHIHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	QIAN YANG	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 May 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20 and 22* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20 and 22* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *5/1/09*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on May 26, 2009 has been entered. Claims 1 – 6, 14, 18 – 20 and 22 have been amended. Claim 21 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Claims 1 – 20 and 22 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 20 and 22 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1- 8, 10, 17-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sowinski et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2001/0053247), hereinafter referred as Sowinski.

Regarding claim 1, Sowinski discloses an image reading apparatus (a system of offering photofinishing service) arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the image reading apparatus comprising: an image reading unit (Fig. 5, #502) configured to read an image on an original document and generate image data corresponding to the read image (paragraph 0058);

an acquiring unit configured to acquire personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of the external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services (paragraph 0125 – 0126);

a personalizing unit configured to personalize a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information (Fig. 10 – 11, paragraph 0127 – 0130); and

a transmitting unit (Fig. 6, paragraph 0061) configured to transmit various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator by said personalizing unit (Fig. 4, paragraph 0054, also paragraph 0124 – 0128), together with the generated image data via the network to an external service selected by the operator (paragraph 0065 – 0066).

Regarding claim 2 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein said acquiring unit comprises:

a reading unit configured to read operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator (paragraph 0125, also in paragraph 0062, "Image data and other pertinent information (operator identification information and the personalized service information) may be input and output by reading and writing operations, respectively, from magnetic storage media or optical storage") from a detachable storage medium (paragraph 0116); and

an identification unit configured to identify the operator according to the operator identification information read from the storage medium (paragraph 0125).

Regarding claim 3 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein said acquiring unit comprises:
a wireless communication unit configured to communicate with a storage medium capable of carrying out wireless communication (paragraph 0062), the storage medium storing operator identification information (paragraph 0125) and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator (paragraph 0129 – 0130); and
an identification unit configured to identify the operator according to the operator identification information stored in the storage medium (paragraph 0125).

Regarding claim 4 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein an external server (Fig. 6, #602) holding the personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information (paragraph 0125) is connected to the network (Fig. 6, #601), and said acquiring unit (paragraph 0124, home computer) transmits operator identification information to the external server via the network (paragraph 0125), and acquires the personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information from the external server (paragraph 0125).

Regarding claim 5 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein an

external server (Fig. 6, #602) holding personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information and respective apparatus identification information (paragraph 0125) is connected to the network (Fig. 6, #601), and said acquiring unit transmits operator identification information and apparatus identification information to the external server via the network, and acquires personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information and apparatus identification information from the external server (paragraph 0124 – 0125).

Regarding claim 6 (depends on claim 4), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the plurality of external services exist on the Internet (paragraph 0119), and the external server exists on an intranet (paragraph 0062).

Regarding claim 7 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and defaults of various settings for the services to be used (Fig. 9 – 10).

Regarding claim 8 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values which can be set by the operator for the services to be used (Fig. 3 – 4B).

Regarding claim 10 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values which can be used by the operator for the services to be used (Fig. 3 – 4B).

Regarding claim 17 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the personalized service information includes part of authentication data to be used for user authentication when the operator uses the service (Fig. 3 and Fig. 9).

Regarding claim 18 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein said acquiring unit acquires plural pieces of personalized service information, and said personalizing unit comprises selecting means for selecting a desired service from among services personalized for the operator according to the acquired plural pieces of personalized service information (Fig. 10).

Regarding claim 19 (depends on claim 18), Sowinski discloses the apparatus further comprising an adding unit configured to add various settings as to the service personalized for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information as new personalized service information to the acquired personalized service information (Fig. 10, paragraph 0126 – 0128).

Regarding claim 20, Sowinski discloses a personalizing method for an image reading apparatus (a method of offering photofinishing service) arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the personalizing method comprising:

an image reading step (Fig. 5, #502) of reading an image on an original document and generating image data corresponding to the read image (paragraph 0058);

an acquiring step of acquiring personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of the external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services (paragraph 0125 – 0126);

a personalizing step of personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information (Fig. 10 – 11, paragraph 0127 – 0130); and

a transmitting step (Fig. 6, paragraph 0061) of transmitting various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information acquired in said personalizing step (Fig. 4, paragraph 0054, also paragraph 0124 – 0128), together with the generated image data via the network to an external service selected by the operator (paragraph 0065 – 0066).

Regarding claim 22 it is inherent variations of claim 1, thus it is interpreted and rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowinski in view of Horikoshi et al. (US patent 6,823,459), hereinafter referred as Horikoshi.

Regarding claim 9 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values (Fig. 3 – 4B).

However, Sowinski fails to explicitly disclose wherein the setting values inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Horikoshi discloses a method for prohibiting unauthorized access in a non-contacting data carrier system. In addition, Horikoshi

discloses that the setting values inhibited from being used for the services to be used (described in column 2, line 1-14)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sowinski, and inhibit the setting values from being used for the services to be used, as taught by Horikoshi. The motivation for doing this is that prohibiting unauthorized user to access the sensitive data, as discussed by Horikoshi (col. 1, lines 17 – 25).

Regarding claim 11 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the personalized service information includes identification information to be used by the operator, and setting items (Fig. 3 – 4B).

However, Kadowaki fails to disclose wherein the setting items inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Horikoshi discloses a method for prohibiting unauthorized access in a non-contacting data carrier system. In addition, Horikoshi discloses that the setting items inhibited from being used for the services to be used (described in column 2, line 1-14)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sowinski, and inhibit the setting items from being used for the services to be used, as taught by Horikoshi. The motivation for doing this is that prohibiting unauthorized user to access the sensitive items, as discussed by Horikoshi (col. 1, lines 17 – 25).

6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowinski in view of Kadowaki (US patent application publication 2002/0126322).

Regarding claim 12 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski fails to explicitly disclose the apparatus wherein the external service is inhibited from being used when said personalizing unit omits personalization of the service to be used.
However, in a similar field of endeavor Kadowaki discloses an image processing system. In addition, Kadowaki discloses that the external service is inhibited from being used when said personalizing unit omits personalization of the service to be used (paragraph 0175, S57).
Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sowinski, and inhibit the external service from being used when said personalizing unit omits personalization of the service to be used, as taught by Kadowaki. The motivation for doing this is to provide the service needs to be authenticated before user uses the service to prevent unauthorized usage.

7. Claims 13 -16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowinski in view of Shinichi (Japan patent publication 2002-312429).

Regarding claim 13 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the external service provides a print for the print service (paragraph 0061, "printing services").

However, Sowinski fails to explicitly disclose wherein the external service provides a book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to book-binding format of the book-binding service.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Shinichi discloses an information management service system. In addition, Shinichi discloses that the external service provide a book-binding format for the book-binding service (described in paragraph 0009).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sowinski, and provide a book-binding service after printing, as taught by Shinichi. The motivation for doing this is to provide the service unavailable by a conventional method for user through a public line, as discussed by Shinichi (abstract).

Regarding claim 14 (depends on claim 1), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the external service comprise a print service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to an address for delivery of a printout obtained by the print service (paragraph 0061, "printing services". Fig. 3, "shipping address").

However, Sowinski fails to explicitly disclose wherein the external service provides a book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to an address for delivery of a book-binding service.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Shinichi discloses an information management service system. In addition, Shinichi discloses that the external service provide a book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to an address for delivery of a book-binding service (described in paragraph 0009, also described in paragraph 0066-0067).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sowinski, and provide a book-binding and delivery service after printing, as taught by Shinichi. The motivation for doing this is to provide the service unavailable by a conventional method for user through a public line, as discussed by Shinichi (abstract).

Regarding claim 15 (depends on claim 14), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein the personalized service information includes information indicative of an address of the operator as the address for delivery (Fig. 3, "shipping address").

Regarding claim 16 (depends on claim 14), Sowinski discloses the apparatus wherein

the personalized service information includes information indicative of the operator as who is to be charged for the service (Fig. 3, "billing address" & credit card information).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 20 and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QIAN YANG whose telephone number is (571)270-7239. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benny Tieu can be reached on 5712727490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/QIAN YANG/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/David K Moore/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625